

Guidance on acceptable Team Nutrition expenditures

1. The mission of the grant is to promote the Team Nutrition messages, which are to:
 - Eat a variety of foods
 - Eat more fruit, vegetables, and grains
 - Eat lower fat foods more often
 - Be physically active

Any grant activities should promote those messages, not Team Nutrition per se.

2. The expenditure should be reasonable from a financial point of view. In other words, don't budget \$200 for a few people to participate in an activity.
3. Team Nutrition expenditures should not supplant existing activities. In other words, if you already have an annual skating party, don't pick it up this year with Team Nutrition dollars unless you substantially enhance the activity to focus on the Team Nutrition messages.

Here are some items about which we've received questions from previous Team Nutrition grant awardees, along with the answers with reference to the guidance above.

T-shirts and other promotional items

You can pay for T-shirts or other promotional items if they promote one or more of the Team Nutrition messages and not just Team Nutrition itself. Further T-shirts alone are not allowable. They need to be part of your plan, and the plan should address the role t-shirts will play in promoting the messages.

Free lunch and breakfast passes at a monthly Team Nutrition day

You may not use Team Nutrition dollars to pay for food unless the food is part of a specific educational activity, for example demonstrating healthy snacks, but not to take the place of snacks or meals for which the school may already be receiving federal reimbursement. A key concept here is that the food is demonstrating a Team Nutrition message with an associated educational activity. This also refers to food provided at open houses or other community events. If the food is provided with a specific message to the individual, then it is acceptable. Typically food purchases should support educational activities directed at students or students and their families.

Healthy Snack recipe books

You can pay for the cost of producing recipe books if the books are part of an educational plan, for example, if the students are testing and compiling the recipes as part of a class using the Team Nutrition curriculum. The cookbooks should be given away or can be sold if the proceeds are put back into Team Nutrition programming at your school.

Team Nutrition Float for Homecoming or other local parade

This would be acceptable if the float addresses the Team Nutrition messages, and better yet, if some activity on the float demonstrates how to adopt one of the Team Nutrition behavioral goals.

Staff Development and Planning Time

You may pay for staff development and planning time if it relates directly to implementing your Team Nutrition plan. For accounting purposes, you should keep a record of who attended the session, how long it lasted, and what the purpose of the session was. Documentation would be needed to show time spent outside of normal work hours.

Physical Education Supplies

You may purchase small, consumable supplies such as jump ropes or hula-hoops, but the supplies are to be used in activities outside of the regular physical education class. These could include items that would enhance the concept of promoting and enhancing lifelong physical activity. Team Nutrition funds may not be used to purchase playground equipment, exercise or sports equipment, sports lessons or services of a for-profit health club. A key message here is that Team Nutrition dollars are not intended to subsidize your regular PE program.

Gardening supplies

Team Nutrition funds may be used to purchase supplies such as vegetable seeds, potting soil and starter pots for classroom gardening projects that are linked to a Team Nutrition lesson or message. A few shovels and hoes to support the school gardening project would also be allowable. Funds may not be used to purchase large equipment.